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Missile Defense System Is Urged In U.S. to Protect India and Japan

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**Chicago Nuclear Expert Says
Need by China's Neighbors
for Arsenal Would Ease**

By HEDRICK SMITH

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Feb. 10—The United States would be better able to provide India and Japan with a "nuclear umbrella" against Communist China if it were to deploy a limited anti-missile defense system in this country, an academic expert said today.

This, in turn, should help ease the growing pressures in those two Asian countries for development of their own nuclear weapons, said Dr. Albert Wohlstetter of the University of Chicago.

The debate over whether to set up an antimissile missile defense is one of Washington's hottest military arguments at present. The Chiefs of Staff have recommended a wide-spread ballistic missile defense system for the United States. But Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has opposed it, pending discussions with the Soviet Union on the possibility of a freeze on missile defense systems.

The debate so far has been cast primarily in terms of the American balance of power with the Soviet Union, which has already begun to deploy an antiballistic missile system.

Suggests Counterbalance

But Professor Wohlstetter, a specialist on nuclear matters who has served on the Rand Corporation Research Council, suggested in an interview that the United States should also be concerned about counteracting the impact of China's growing nuclear arsenal on its neutral and pro-Western neighbors.

He said that India and Japan, among others, believed themselves increasingly menaced by Peking's missile program.

"In time, they're either going to get nuclear protection from someone else, formal or informal, or else they'll have to protect themselves," Dr. Wohlstetter said.

With a limited antiballistic system capable of offsetting Chinese offensive missile capability in the nineteen-seventies, the United States could give these countries assurances of defense against China's missiles without great military risk, he explained.

Without such a system, which because of its limited nature might be set up for less than \$4 billion, he said, it would be harder to get the assistance because they might result in



Alfred Eisenstaedt

Dr. Albert Wohlstetter

American casualties if China's intercontinental missiles were turned against the United States, Dr. Wohlstetter said.

According to Pentagon estimates, China could have operational intercontinent ballistic missiles, capable of striking the United States, by the early nineteen-seventies.

Peking's multi-billion-dollar nuclear weapons program, especially the launching of a nuclear-tipped missile last Oct. 28, has spurred the debate in India, and to much lesser extent in Japan, over whether to develop nuclear weapons, Dr. Wohlstetter reported.

In her peaceful atomic energy program, he continued, India has put together a team of scientists with facilities, including a plutonium separation plant, that could enable her to produce an atomic bomb within 18 months.

Sizeable factions within the ruling Congress party, as well as some military officers and physicists, are reported to be advocates of an Indian atomic weapons program despite the staggering cost.

In Japan, Dr. Wohlstetter said, there has been no comparable development of atomic resources for peaceful uses nor an equivalent public debate about homemade atomic weapons.

But in the last year, Japan has shown considerable technical capability in developing solid fuel rockets with a big thrust, and the private debate over developing atomic weapons has been reaching the public, the University of Chicago expert said.

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